

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Daisuke KANENARI

Group Art Unit: 1724

Serial No. 10/531,068

Examiner: Ives J WU

Filed: April 12, 2005

For: Rubber Composition and Pneumatic Tire Using Same

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

I, Takashi KAKUBO, a citizen of Japan, residing at c/o
The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd, Hiratsuka-shi, Kanagawa,
Japan, respectively, sincerely and solemnly declare:

That I am by profession a research chemist and
that I graduated from Tokyo University of Agriculture and
Technology, Faculty of Engineering on March, 1994 and
graduated from Graduate School of Tokyo University of
Agriculture and Technology on March, 1998. Since April,
1999, I have been employed by The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd
and have been engaged in research, as a researcher, mainly
for the developments of the rubber composition and

compounding for a tire use.

THAT I am an employee of the assignee company (i.e., The Yokohama Rubber Co., Ltd) of the invention of the above-identified U.S. Patent Application (which is referred to as "the present invention" hereinbelow) and am, therefore, familiar with the present invention;

THAT I have read and understand the Office Action mailed June 19, 2007, with respect to the above-identified application; and

THAT in order to show the criticality of the N₂SA of the carbon black used in the present invention, the following Experiments were carried out under my direction and supervision.

EXPERIMENT A

To prove the criticality of the N₂SA value of the carbon black used in the rubber composition according to the present invention requested by the Examiner, Example II-5 of the present application was repeated, except that Seast 116 HM having an N₂SA of 56 m²/g available from Tokai Carbon was used as the carbon black, instead of

HTCG having an N_2SA of $25 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

The resultant rubber composition was evaluated in the same manner as in Example II-5 of the present application. The results are as follows:

50% modulus:	6.6 MPa
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$\tan \delta$ (100°C):	0.11
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Run flat durability* (index):	125
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*: Without adhesive rubber layer.

CONCLUSION

As is clear from the above results and based upon my knowledge and experiences, I conclude that the "70 m^2/g or less" of the N_2SA of the carbon black to be used in the rubber composition of the present invention is critical to obtain the desired rubber composition for use in a pneumatic tire having a run flat capability, when compared with the results shown in Table II-1 of the present application.

I, the undersigned declarant, declare further that all Statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and; further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001, of Title 18, of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Signed this 15th day of October, 2007

Takashi Kakubo

Takashi Kakubo